

EXHIBIT

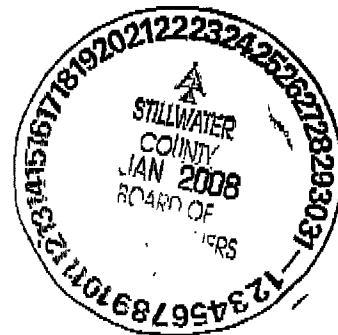
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DATE 2/4/09

HB 194

01/21/09

Stillwater County Commissioners
P.O. Box 970
Columbus, MT 59019



RE: HB 194

Stillwater County Commissioners:

Thank you for contacting Stillwater Mining Company concerning support of HB 194.

Stillwater Mining Company has paid a significant portion of the Metal Mines License Tax collected in Montana for more than 20 years. The authorization of payment to the counties of money in excess of the administrative and operating expenses of the Hard Rock Mining Impact Board plus the \$100,000 reserve amount was previously in the State Statutes as a statutory appropriation. The payment to the counties as a statutory appropriation was efficient and timely.

Stillwater Mining Company supports restoring the payment of Metal Mines License Tax to the counties as a statutory appropriation proposed in HB 194.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John Beaudry". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Beaudry
Public Affairs Manager

536 East Pike Avenue
P.O. Box 1930
Columbus, Montana 59019

STILLWATER
MINING COMPANY

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